



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/520,608

01/03/2006

James Robert Durrant

FRYHP0127US

9651

23908 7590 06/24/2009
RENNER OTTO BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP
1621 EUCLID AVENUE
NINETEENTH FLOOR
CLEVELAND, OH 44115

EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARC A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/24/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,608	Applicant(s) DURRANT ET AL.	
	Examiner MARC A. PATTERSON	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

1. The objection to the specification, of record on page 2 of the previous Action, is repeated.

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-7, 9- 16, 18-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ebner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,387,461 B1).

With regard to Claims 1 - 4, 11, 14 - 15 and 29, Ebner et al disclose a package packaging an item and defining a closed environment in which the item is enclosed (column 3, lines 50 - 52), the packaging including an oxygen - scavenging element which includes titanium oxide (column 4, lines 40 – 60), therefore a photo - activatable semiconductor and polyvinyl chloride (column 8, lines 56 - 57), therefore an electron donor that is an organic material; Ebner et al therefore also include a semiconductor that whilst exposed to ultra - bandgap light generates electron - hole pairs, with the electrons acting to reduce oxygen, thereby to scavenge the same from the closed environment, and the holes combining with electrons sacrificed by the electron donor.

With regard to Claims 5 - 6, the organic material comprises EDTA (column 5, line 68).

Art Unit: 1794

With regard to Claim 7, the organic material comprises an alcohol (column 8, line 56).

With regard to Claim 9, the organic material comprises an aldehyde (column 10, line 52).

With regard to Claims 10, 12 - 13 and 19, the oxygen scavenging element comprises a suspension containing the semiconductor (column 7, lines 60 - 64), therefore also including a gas and vapor.

With regard to Claims 16 and 18, the semiconductor comprises zinc oxide (column 4, lines 40 - 43). With regard to Claim 20, the oxygen scavenging element comprises a paste containing the semiconductor (column 11, lines 50 - 51).

With regard to Claims 21 - 22, the oxygen scavenging element comprises a gel containing the semiconductor (dispersion, therefore including a liquid; column 8, line 2).

With regard to Claims 23 - 25, the oxygen scavenging element comprises titanium oxide, as discussed above; the oxygen scavenging element therefore comprises a block, layer or powder containing an activatable semiconductor.

With regard to Claims 26 - 27, the oxygen scavenging element is a packaging element, as stated above, and therefore comprises an encapsulating layer and film encapsulating at least a surface of the item.

With regard to Claim 28, the packaging includes an open - topped container and the oxygen - scavenging element comprises a film which closes the container (pouch; column 3, lines 48 - 50).

With regard to Claim 34, the item comprises a foodstuff (column 7, lines 39 - 40).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 17 and 30 - 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebner et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,387,461 B1).

Ebner et al disclose an oxygen scavenging element for a package, as discussed above. The element comprises transition metal oxide (column 5, lines 47 - 55). With regard to Claim 17, Ebner et al fail to disclose a metal oxide comprising tungsten oxide. However, Ebner et al disclose the use of a transition metal oxide, as discussed above. It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time Applicant's invention was made, to have provided for tungsten oxide, as tungsten oxide is a transition metal oxide.

With regard to Claims 30 - 33, Ebner et al fail to disclose a package comprising an item that is an opto - electronic device, molecular device or a polymeric device. However, Ebner et al disclose a package, as discussed above. It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time Applicant's invention was made, to have provided for a package comprising any item, including an opto - electronic device, molecular device or a polymeric device.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,387,461 B1) in view of Fisher (U.S. Patent No. 2,877,197).

Ebner et al disclose an oxygen scavenging element for a container comprising a polymer as discussed above. Ebner et al fail to disclose an element comprising a thiol.

Fisher teaches a polymer comprising a polythiol for the purpose of obtaining a polymer that is corrosion resistant (column 1, lines 23 - 25). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the polythiol of Fisher in Ebner et al, which comprises a polymer, depending on the resistance of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a thiol in Ebner et al in order to obtain a polymer that is corrosion resistant as taught by Fisher.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

7. Applicant's arguments regarding the rejections of the previous Action have been carefully considered but have not been found to be persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant argues, on page 7 of the remarks dated September 25, 2008, that titanium dioxide is not disclosed by Ebner et al.

However, titanium dioxide is disclosed by Ebner et al, because titanium is one of the transition metals disclosed by Ebner et al, and Ebner et al disclose the positive oxidation state of the metal; Ebner et al also disclose the transition metal associated with other elements by ionic bonds.

Art Unit: 1794

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marc A Patterson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794